



Director's Report

April 10th, 2024

Student Enrollment: 182

Staffing: We currently have ASL interpreter positions open in our middle and high school DHHP.

We have two teaching positions open in our Gateway School.

Contract Services Availability:

- We have 5 days of PTA services available for contract services and one day of OT services available.
- We also have availability to complete PT/OT evaluations.
- We have 3 days of SLPA services available beginning May 1, 2024.
- We have ESY SLP and SLPA services available.

Referrals:

- Kelly Day: 4 referrals
- Senators Program - 2 referrals
- Gateway School - 10 new referrals. Two students recently returned to districts so students on the waitlist are being reviewed and new referrals considered. Openings in the LINKS program.
- DHHP - 3 referrals

Coordinated Program Review: Our on-site mid-cycle coordinated program review took place on March 27th and 28th. Our exit meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4/3/2024.

Ayer-Shirley Regional School District: Our Collaborative Agreement has been reviewed with DESE. Suggestions were made to make additional updates to bring the document up to date since it was last reviewed in 2014. The required changes were made and reviewed by our legal team. Now that our legal team and DESE have approved the amendment which includes the addition of Ayer-Shirley Regional School District we will move forward with a second vote and next steps with district school committee approvals.

FY25 Budget: The budget will be presented for a final vote at the May 2024 meeting.

Space: A facilities subcommittee meeting took place on 3/29/2024. In order to expand the Senators program, we continue to explore available space options in the area. We have been actively looking at buildings in Gardner and recently toured the New Braintree Center School. There may be an older school building in Athol available for consideration. A recent meeting with Dr. Adam Renda, superintendent from Ayer Shirley confirmed that the district will have a second pre-K classroom for our use for the 2024- 2025 school year. Space at Sonoma Square has been identified for the Gateway elementary expansion. Additional space at the

Quabbin Regional Middle/High School is also being explored to expand the space for Kelly Day Middle/High School classrooms.

Special Education Directors Group: CAPS Central Mass Special Education Directors group is scheduled to meet again on Thursday 4/11/2024. Michelle Atter, Gateway Director and Mindy Leblanc will give a brief overview of the CAPS LINKS program. All district directors are welcome and invited to attend and participate. Feedback around this networking opportunity has been very positive.

Monty Tech/CAPS Grant Partnership, STEP Program: This program is moving forward nicely! The initial staff meeting was held on 3/21/2024 and the mandatory parent meeting on 3/28/24. The students will begin attending on Monday, 4/1/2024. At this time we have 14 participants from the Quabbin, Fitchburg, Winchendon, Leominster Ayer/Shirley, Wachusett, and Athol-Royalston school districts. Seven CAPS staff members are serving as vocational assistants.

Upcoming Events:

- Family ASL series
- Mount Wachusett Community College Spring Job Fair 4/10/2024
- ALICE training
- Job Fair hosted by Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District 5/2/2024
- Gateway School Graduation 6/7/2024